

# East Cassia

Soil and Water Conservation District



1361 East 16<sup>th</sup> Street

Burley, ID 83318

PHONE: (208) 572-3375

ewcswcd@gmail.com

www.minicassiaswcd.com

SWCD Board Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm

## Top Priorities and Resource Concerns

### 1. Water Resource

Encouraging good conservation practices which save water and reduce soil erosion, conversion to sprinkler systems, promote benefits of crop residue, conservation tillage, and cross slope farming practices.

### 2. Rangeland

Education and encouragement of brush control, range seeding, and pest control, fire control practices, drought concerns, stock water improvements, and planned grazing systems.

### 3. Direct Seed and Cover Crops

Encouraging farmers and landowners to implement new and innovative farm practices. Educate landowners on the benefits of such practices.

### 4. Education

Education is a huge benefactor to the districts. The byproduct of educating children is that information is then passed on to their parents.

## FY2020 Revenue 7/1/19 - 6/30/20

\$ 17,492.20	State - ISWCC
\$ 5,000.00	County
\$ 1,732.39	Tree Sale (per 3 Districts)
\$ 3,287.00	Administrative Funds
\$ 5,800.00	NACD TAGrant Contract
\$ 899.06	NRCS Administrative Contract
\$ 163.03	Farm Bill Funds

**\$ 34,373.68 TOTAL**

## Mission Statement

*To encourage responsible natural resource management and to implement conservation goals which improve air, soil, and water quality while improving wildlife habitat.*

*To educate both youth and adults about our local conservation practices and needs.*

## District Operations/Accomplishments

### Seedling Tree Sale

In early spring, Mini-Cassia Districts held their annual Tree Sale. Despite our office being unavailable to the public the three districts managed to sell over 2650 seedlings of the nine different varieties offered. As always, we talked on the phone to so many great people that are dedicated in promoting good conservation practices. Some of the landowners were starting Windbreak projects. They ordered hundreds of trees. This year each of the three districts profited \$1732.39. Income from these sales is used to help incorporate good conservation practices and help with student awards such as: college scholarships, Know Your Government scholarships, Natural Resources Camp scholarships, as well as prizes for speech and poster contest winners.

### Projects

These Mini-Cassia area Soil and Water Conservation Districts continue working together to promote the Direct Seed Drill program. 2020 was the sixth year to rent out the Seed drills to landowners. Districts have continued promoting good soil health practices which benefit the landowners in many ways. Some of the benefits include improved water infiltration, reducing the loss of top soil from blowing winds, and improving air quality and individual health. In many cases, landowners can submit a request for a partial seed rebate for purchasing cover crop seed. An annual Soil Health workshop is held in the first quarter of each year to help inform and educate those interested in how cover crop planting aids soil health. This year's workshop was held in February. West Cassia Chairman Richard Kunau welcomed everyone. The special keynote speaker was internationally renowned and highly respected groundcover and soils ecologist Dr. Christine Jones. Other presenters included: regional soil health specialist Marlon Winger, Brian Kossman, Rob Giesbrecht, and Linda Schott, Ph.D. After lunch other speakers and educators included: Luke and Sara Adams, Jason Thomas, Grant Loomis, Steve Hines, Cameron Williams, and Joel Packham, Cassia County Agent. This workshop was available FREE to patrons and also offers FREE pesticide credits.

### Board/Business Meetings

Supervisors and district employees attended the Fall Division IV meeting hosted by Gooding Soil & Water Conservation District. Supervisors and employees worked hard since April 2020 to prepare for the 78<sup>th</sup> annual IASCD conference set for November 10-13<sup>th</sup> in Burley, Idaho. Richard Kunau, chairman of West Cassia SWCD, also serves as Treasurer on the IASCD Board. District supervisors and district employees were disappointed when the meeting had to be canceled in mid-September. All the information will be saved and they will be prepared for the next meeting. All district financial information and documents were/are available for public review.

### Education and Outreach

The following donations were given in FY2020 in support of education; \$50.00 to the Idaho Forestry, \$200.00 to poster contest winners from local schools, \$500.00 in college scholarships, and \$250 to Know Your Government. East Cassia also donated \$150.00 to Idaho Ag in the Classroom. This is their Twelfth year as a certified Idaho Ag in the Classroom member. FFA and 4H students from all around Idaho participated in the Idaho State Land Judging Event. Even though it was a windy day the students enjoyed competing with each other. They celebrated 50 Years of land judging and received T-shirts and patches. The Preston FFA placed 1st and the Rigby FFA placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. They won travel scholarships for national competition. The contest was held in Cassia County. NRCS workers, District employees, and SWCD Supervisors provided the equipment and labor. Over 30 volunteers assisted, including County Commissioners and a soil Scientist.



Cassia County

### Awards Banquet

In the summer of 2020 Cassia Soil and Water Conservation Districts held their annual Awards Banquet and Picnic in conjunction with their monthly Board Meetings. They honored their Cooperators of the Year with a jacket with their names embroidered on to it. Two new district employees, and a new Cotterel Boat Station manager also received jackets and were welcomed to the team. West Cassia District Supervisor Richard Kunau received his 15 year service pin. The banquet was different than most recent years, but worked out well.

### Summer Picnic

After three times of rescheduling because of Covid restrictions, West Cassia and East Cassia opted for a Board Meeting Awards Banquet and Picnic. Each Board handed out awards and recognized a student with a \$500 scholarship. Natural Resource Camp (NRC) sadly had to cancel camp this year due to Covid, but they are looking forward to a great NRC 2021.

### Operations

In March, board supervisors met with elected Cassia County Commissioners to review the proposed budget and activities as a basis for requesting county funding. The Cassia County awarded a \$5,000.00 allocation to the district. This funding helps the district immensely with personnel costs, scholarships and awards, and daily district activities. The district was awarded \$6,000.00 from Cassia County for FY2020. The additional \$1,000.00 was put toward payroll for an additional employee. This employee will work directly with NRCS staff assisting with work load and various projects. The districts also completed yearly reports and a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2020 and submitted them to the ISWCC. .



**George & Gwen Montgomery, Cooperators of the Year  
and Steve Ward Vice-Chairman East Cassia SWCD**

### East Cassia SWCD Board of Supervisors

Mark Webb	Chairman	73 N Yale Road Declo, ID 83323	mark@heglercreekfarms.com
Steve Ward	Vice-Chairman	2900 S Narrows Road Malta, ID 83342	steveward64@live.com
Ken Woodworth	Treasurer	51 N 3350 E American Falls, ID 83211	ctrfarms@hotmail.com
Rob Cottle	Member	Malta, ID 83342	cottleranch@gmail.com
Hannah Sanders	Member	3485 S. 2750 E. Declo, ID 83323	hannahsanders722@gmail.com

**IDAHO SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

**PERFORMANCE  
REPORT  
CERTIFICATION**

**DISTRICT:** East Cassia SWCD

**FOR YEAR:**

2020

**DUE :**

December 21, 2020

**CERTIFICATION**

On behalf of my local Board of Supervisors, I hereby certify that the attached Performance Report is true and accurate, and further submit said Report for the above named District and fiscal year.

A copy of this Performance Report shall be kept at the District office and is available for public inspection.

Mark A Webb

Board Supervisor Signature

Mark A Webb

Printed Name

11-10-2020

Date

(208) 572-3375

District Telephone

ewcswe@ gmail.com

District Email Address

**FOR SWC USE ONLY:**

**DATE OF CONFIRMATION:**